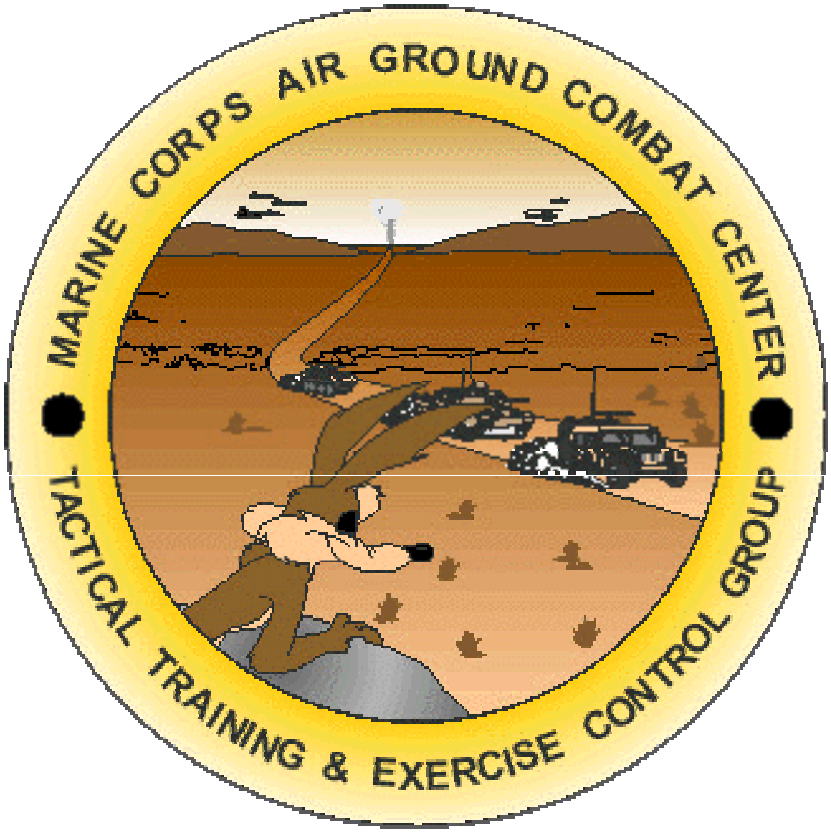
ASCEX II Helicopterborne Operation



September 2002

Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group
MAGTF Training Command
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms, California 92278-8200

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms, California 92278-8104

ASCEX II HELICOPTERBORNE OPERATION

19 Sept 02

Ref: (a) MCWP 3-11.4, Helicopterborne Operations
(b) MCWP 3-24, Assault Support
(c) MCWP 3-23.1, Close Air Support
(d) MCWP 3-16, TTP for FSC

Encl: (1) Operations Order
(2) Planning Checklist
(3) RSTA NAI's and Objective Area Diagram
(4) Target List & Scheduling Work Sheets
(5) Preplanned 9-Lines

1. **LESSON TITLE**. ASCEX II Helicopterborne Operation

2. **TRAINING OBJECTIVE**. Introduce the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures required to successfully execute a live fire helicopterborne assault, emphasizing the mechanics involved with fires in consonance with airborne maneuver and combined arms operations.

a. **Task**. Conduct a helicopterborne insertion/extraction under the cover of supporting arms.

b. **Condition**. The ASCEX II helicopterborne operation will be conducted as a Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT). Insertion and extraction are supported by both artillery and aviation assets. The required mix of OAS and Assault Support assets will be determined during mission planning. The helicopterborne force will operate within the established safety regulations found in the CAX Safety Handout, and administrative guidance contained in this handout.

c. **Purpose**. The ASCEX II Helicopterborne Operation is intended to provide the exercise force with the opportunity to plan and execute a live fire helicopterborne operation. Additionally, the ASCEX II Helicopterborne Operation allows the exercise force to identify problem areas involving initiation and control of fires in preparation for the Helicopterborne Assault Course (HAC). It is highly encouraged to have the same key billet holders who participate in the ASCEX II Helo Op remain in these billets during the execution of the HAC.

3. **ASCEX II HELICOPTERBORNE OPERATION SCHEME OF MANEAUVER**

a.) The ASCEX II Helicopterborne Operation is a TEWTed live fire exercise. *Under no circumstance will troops be debarked during*

insertion or extraction. The operation is divided into three phases; insertion, defense of a blocking position, and extraction.

b.) Insertion.

1.) The assault phase of the operation begins with the notional insertion of RSTA team(s) onto OP Left the night prior. The RSTA team(s) are tasked with locating and observing assigned NAI's for enemy activity. Additionally, the RSTA team(s)will be afforded the opportunity to register designated targets with artillery prior to L-hour.

2.) Prior to L-hour the RSTA team(s) will conduct a battle hand over with the FAC(A). The FAC(A), utilizing stand off weapon systems (PGMs), will neutralize the enemy's air defense asset (AB1001) in preparation for the insert of the Helicopterborne Task Force. The FAC(A) will initiate the preplanned fires ISO the helicopterborne assault. The FAC(A) will also provide terminal control for CAS aircraft during the assault.

3.) Following the insert, the FAC(A) will conduct a battle hand over with the company FiST to take control of fires. The company FiST will be located on OP Left throughout the operation. At the completion of the battle hand over, the FAC will provide terminal control for CAS assets on station. The notional company(rein) will successfully clear the enemy in sector and establish a blocking position along the MSR on the northern edge of the objective.

c.) Defense of a blocking position.

1.) A notional 24 hours has elapsed prior to this phase beginning. Notionally during the evening the engineer attachment has improved the defensive positions by including an obstacle across the company's front.

2.) An enemy mechanized force will be identified by either RSTA or aviation assets as approaching from the North towards the blocking position. By doing the appropriate battlefield calculus, the company FiST will identify the trigger point necessary to fire their preplanned fires supporting their defense. The company FiST will kill the enemy advancing element by using all available supporting arms simultaneously.

d.) Extraction.

1.) As the notional company(rein) destroys the remaining enemy with direct fire, an additional force will be reported as approaching from the North along the same route. The enemy composition is such that extraction of the company(rein) is required.

2.) The extract phase will occur immediately following the defensive phase in real time. The FiST will initiate preplanned

disengagement fires when the lead elements of the enemy column hit a designated trigger. The extraction will be executed under the suppressive effects of these fires. The FiST will conduct a battle hand over with a FAC(A) in order to simulate embarking aboard the helicopters.

3.) The FAC(A) will be responsible for covering the extraction of the notional company(rein) from the zone. The FAC(A) will provide terminal control for CAS assets on station and continue to provide fire support until the notional company(rein) is safely out of zone.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

a.) To facilitate planning for both the HAC & ASCEX II Helo Op, TTECG has developed preplanned fires and 9-lines supporting each phase of the ASCEX II operation. It is highly encouraged to use these pre-planned options. The ASCEX II Helo Op was created as a building block approach for the HAC. *The exercise force will focus on the necessary coordination required to initiate and synchronize fires with airborne maneuver*. At the commander's discretion, the MAGTF may create new or refine current TTECG fire plans. If the exercise force chooses to use the fire plans and 9-lines in this booklet, they will accept all responsibility for the outcome of the operation.

b.) The Ground Combat Element (GCE) will be required to provide the helicopterborne company's FiST, RSTA team(s), and Bn FSCC. These elements must be in position on OP Left NLT 1400 the day of the event. The Bn FSCC is responsible for fire support coordination. In accordance with MCAGCC Order P3500.4E, the FSC must positively clear all fire missions to include aviation delivered ordnance.

c.) The Aviation Combat Element (ACE) will provide Offensive Air Support (OAS), Assault Support, and required Command & Control assets as identified during mission planning. At a minimum, one assault support aircraft from each HMM/HMH squadron, one section of FW & RW CAS, and a C&C aircraft will be required to participate in the operation. Combat Service Support Elements (CSSE) are not required.

d.) *The operation will be approximately 2 1/2 hours in length, including the period for firing and recording indirect targets*. All three phase are executed during this period. Administrative guidance on the ASCEX II Helo op scenario will be briefed in detail during the HAC class given day 4 of CAX.

e.) Coyote 14S will attend both the aviation brief and debrief at Camp Wilson to provide guidance as required. The Air Mission Commander(AMC) is responsible for ensuring that the time of the aviation brief is forwarded to TTECG and that Coyote 14S is provided with three(3) copies of the smartpack.

5. ARTILLERY/FIRE SUPPORT

a.) The artillery battery supporting ASCEX I & II will support the helicopterborne operation. Coordination with the artillery battalion is essential for mission success. It is highly encouraged to have a representative from the artillery battalion present during ASCEX II Helo Op & HAC planning.

b.) *The 81mm mortars in support of ASCEX I & II will be placed in a cold status throughout the helicopterborne operation. Over-flight of the 81mm's position is authorized*.

6. **AIR SUPPORT**

a.) Live ordnance is preferred. Due to the proximity of friendly positions the following ordnance is recommended:

1.) FW CAS - Mk 82's & rockets.

2.) RW CAS – 2.75"/5.00" Rockets, 20mm, GAU-16, GAU-17

b.) The DASC will either co-locate with or provide an ASLT to the FSCC. MACG representation during mission planning is highly encouraged. The DASC will use the enemy threat enclosed in this handout during the helicopterborne operation.

c.) Embark/Debark complete will be simulated by a thumbs-up given by a TTECG representative located in the zone. Once the signal has been given, the flight is cleared to raise their ramps and egress out of the zone.

7. **SAFETY**

a.) No assault door gunnery is permitted during ASCEX II Helo Op.

b.) *The TTECG representative in the LZ will provide ITG*. Ensure proper consideration is given to his position regarding the effects of all ordnance delivered. Restrictive FSCM's will be thoroughly briefed and understood by all participants. Additionally, assault support aircraft will land allowing sufficient clearance from the TTECG representative in zone to prevent sandblast.

c.) *The LZ will be marked by smoke for both insert and extract. The Assault Flight Leader(AFL) will ensure that no aircraft land north of the smoke. Egress and wave-off direction will be to the West/South-West. Adherence to these instructions is mandatory!*

d.) Red pyrotechnics will be used only to indicate an emergency.

e.) Brownout conditions created by helicopters landing in the desert environment could mislead FW CAS aircrew into believing they're observing artillery suppression. It's highly recommended that all

aircrew participating in the operation attend the aviation brief in order to prevent such confusion from occurring.

Copy no.___ of___copies
MAGTF-X
MOJAVIA
999999U Xxx 00
ASCEX II Helo Op

Frag Order 1-XX (ASCEX II Helo Op)

Ref: (a) Map:(1) V795S MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS EAST, sheet TWENTYNINE PALMS EAST MIM, 4-NIMA, 1:50,000.
(2) V795S MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS WEST, sheet TWENTYNINE PALMS WEST MIM, 4-NIMA, 1:50,000.

Time Zone: U

Task Organization: No change

1. SITUATION

a. General. (Omitted)

b. Enemy Forces.

(1) OPFOR is positioned in Quackenbush Lake south of Alligator Ridge (vic grid 6316).

(2) OPFOR occupies blocking position along the high-speed avenues of approach in the southern Quackenbush Lake training area. Known enemy positions based on recent imagery are identified as;

a. Three (3) dug-in armored vehicles with dismounted troops located vic grid NU 660114.

b. One (1) mobile ADA asset located vic grid 669122.

c. Friendly Forces.

(1) CTF Mojavia defends the port and airfield of TWENTYNINE PALMS in order to prevent disruption of the arrival of U.S. and coalition forces.

(2) There are no adjacent forces in theater.

(3) ArForX supports MAGTF operations ashore and build up of forces at the port and airfield South of Twentynine Palms.

(4) MarForX supports MAGTF operations ashore at the port and airfield South of Twentynine Palms.

(5) NavForX supports off load of forces at the port south of Twentynine Palms, MPF operations, fast sea lift of forces in theater, air defense operations ashore, and security of the seaborne approaches to the country of Mojavia.

(6) AirForX supports airfield operations and the build up of forces at the airfield south of Twentynine Palms, air operations in theater, and air transport of forces into the country.

(7) SOCX supports special operations in theater.

2. MISSION

At 999999U Xxx 00, CTF Mojavia defends the port and airfield South of Twentynine Palms in order to prevent enemy interference with the build up of forces in the Country of Mojavia. On order, CTF Mojavia attacks to seize CTF Objective 1 in order to deny forward enemy elements from establishing a foothold in the Quackenbush area of operation.

3. EXECUTION

a. Commanders Intent/Concept of Operations

(1) Commander’s Intent As the MPF offload commences, it is threatened from Samaran forces pushing South towards the airfield and port facility of Twentynine Palms. Enemy reconnaissance and engineering forces have been reported in the Quackenbush area. I suspect that these forces are conducting reconnaissance and engineering operations in preparation for follow-on forces being re-supplied in the vicinity of Barstow. The purpose of this operation is to strip the enemy of his reconnaissance assets, thus preventing him from gathering intelligence on the arrival of additional U.S forces. This will be accomplished by seizing CTF Obj 1 and denying the enemy use of the Quackenbush for intelligence. Endstate is occupation of CTF Obj 1 in order to deny enemy reconnaissance into the Quackenbush area.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Maneuver

(1) See Operations Overlay.

(2) One helicopterborne force conducts a deliberate attack to seize CTF Objective 1. One helicopterborne force blocks the Quackenbush’s main MSR to prevent use of key terrain in gathering intelligence on the port of Twentynine Palms.

(b) Fires

(1) Artillery Support. X Bn, XX Mar in direct support of MAFGTF-X. One battery will be positioned vicinity NU 7107 to provide fires in support of the helicopterborne operation.

(2) Air Support. X Co(rein) allotted a minimum of 1 section FW/RW CAS, 1 assault support and C&C aircraft.

(3) Fire Support Coordination.

(a) See the operations Overlay.

(b) FSCL remains in effect along the trace of I-40.

(4) Coordinating Instructions. (Omitted)

b. Tasks

(1) X Bn, X Mar

(a) Conduct a helicopterborne assault into and deny use of the Quackenbush avenues of approach.

(2) X Bn, X Mar

(a) Direct support of MAGTF-X. Priority of fires to X Bn, X Mar.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) See Operations Overlay.

(2) L-Hour is DD1515U MMM YY.

(3) H-Hour is DDHHMMU MMM YY.

(4) MOPP level 0 in effect.

(5) Helicopterborne force ZOA. See Operations Overlay.

(6) Coordinate all activities outside the ZOA or your assigned sector with this headquarters.

(7) Be prepared for emergency extract of the helicopterborne force if large enemy mechanized enter the Quackenbush.

(8) Mission Precedence: MANDATORY.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. (Omitted).

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL.

a. Command Relationship. (Omitted)

b. Signal. See current CEOI.

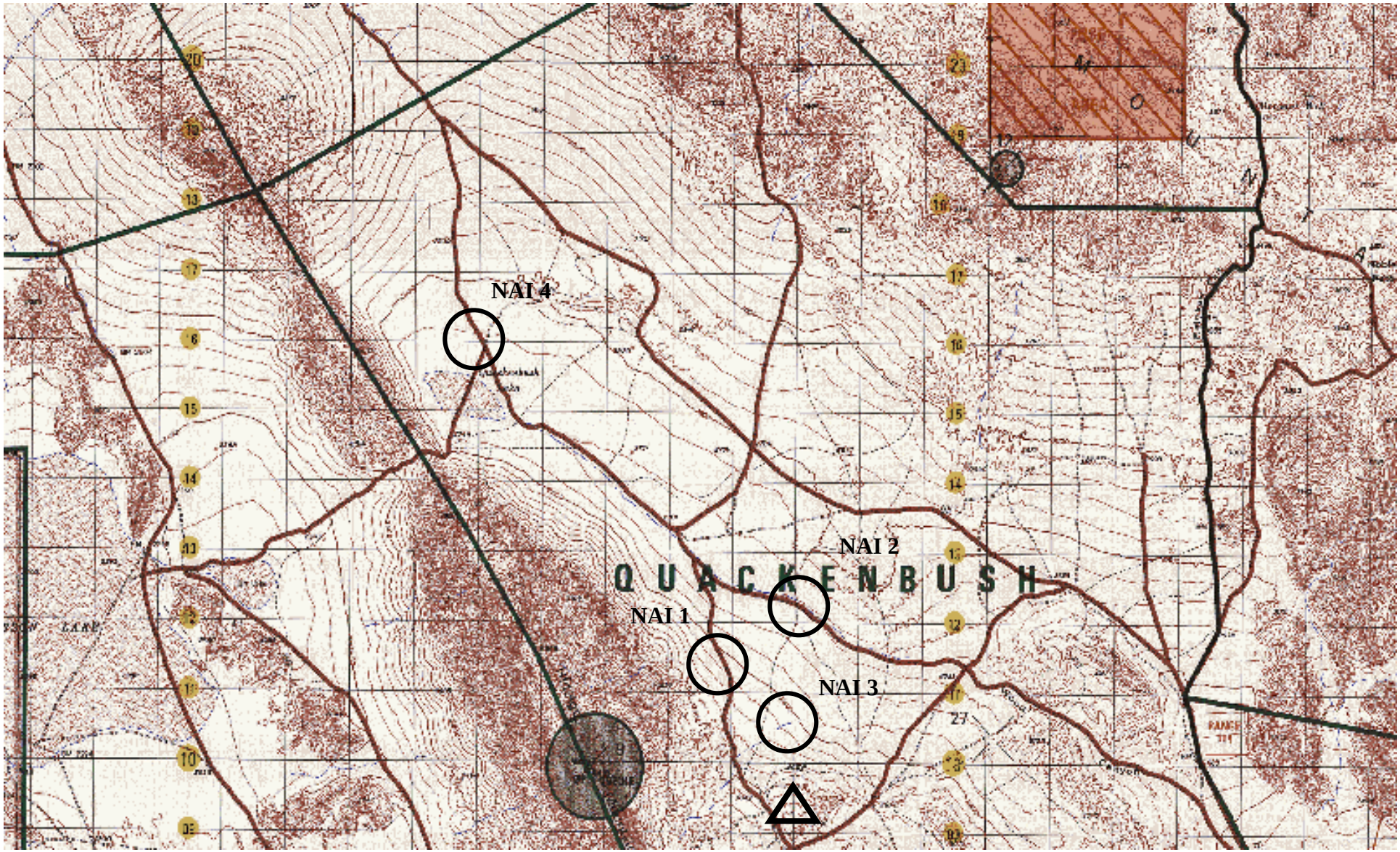
ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

I.M. FAT
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander
CTF Mojavia

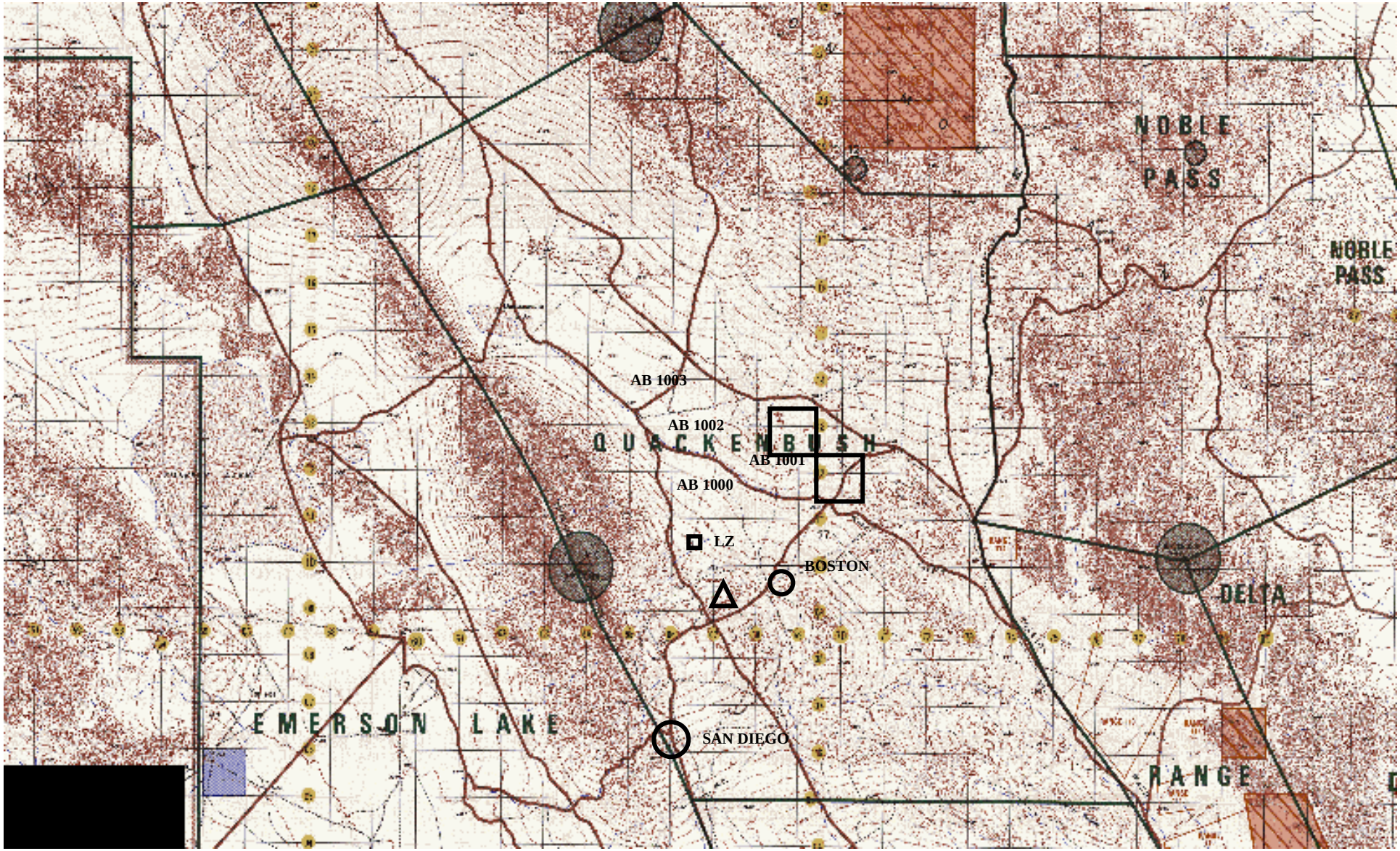
ASCEX II HELO OP PLANNING CHECKLIST

1.) The following will be provided to the exercise force by TTECG.
   a.) Recommended fire plan to support the operation.
   b.) ITG in the LZ.
   c.) Simulations of troop debark and embark in the LZ.
   d.) LZ Location — NU 667101
   e.) BP Locations — Asp (NU 7111 2x2)
   Boa (NU 6913 2x2)
   f.) HA Location — Jennifer (NU 7413 2x2)
   g.) Ingress Route — Mazda, Dodge, San Diego, Boston (NU 685096), LZ
   h.) Egress Route — LZ, San Diego, Mazda
   i.) Battery Location — NU 7107 2x2
   j.) 81mm position — NU 682094 (cold throughout operation)
   k.) L-Hour — 1515 Local

2.) The following tasks are the responsibility of the exercise force.
   a.) Refinements to recommended fire plan (if desirable)
   b.) Communication Plan/Connectivity Diagrams
   c.) Mission Timeline
   d.) Select an MCA
   e.) Determine location for FSCC
   f.) Produce a Fire Support Execution Matrix (FSEM)
   g.) Conduct an abbreviated confirmation brief
   h.) Conduct a flight brief



ASCEX II Helo Op R&S MAP (Encl 3)


NOBLE
PASS
NOBLE
PASS
AB 1003
AB 1002
AB 1001
AB 1000
QUACKENBUSH
LZ
BOSTON
DELTA
EMERSON LAKE
SAN DIEGO
RANGE

TARGET LIST WORK SHEET

SHEET___1___OF___1____.

LINE NO.	TARGET NO. (a)	DESCRIPTION (b)	LOCATION (c)	ALTITUDE (d)	ATTITUDE (e)	SIZE L(f)/W(g)		OBSERVER PRI/ALT (h)	REMARKS (i)	BRUINS	CELTICS	PATRIOTS		
1	AB1000	2 BMP / 1 BRDM	NU660114	850						X	X	X		
2	AB1001	ZSU 23-4	NU669122	800										
3	AB1002	MECH CO Ave O App	NU657127	800							X	X		
4	AB1003	MECH CO Ave O App	NU649137	800							X			
5	AB1004	Smoke Screen	NU662112	850	0800	200	50		5 MINUTES			X		
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ENCLOSURE (4)

(Series _Bruins_____
UNIT _____, OPORDER _-__
__ ____U ___ __ (DTG))

SCHEDULING WORKSHEET

Line #	Organization & caliber	Firing Units	WOD 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	REMARKS
1	/ 155mm (T)		AB1000	
2	/ 155mm (T)		AB1000 (a) AB1000 (a)	
3	F/W		AB1000 (b) AB1000 (b)	(a) 1 rnd Ill on Deck (b) Mk-82
4	R/W		AB1000 (c)	(c) R&G
5			WOD	
6				

Task: Limit the enemy's ability to interfere with assault support ingress and egress.

Purpose: IOT allow sufficient combat power into LZ. WOD at +2.

Method: POF: CAS and Artillery to EFL.
OBS: EFL (P), RSTA (A)
Net: Arty COF _____ (P), _____ (A)
Trigger: BHO to EFL, Assaults in PZ, ADA neutralized

Effects: Enemy MECH PLT suppressed in obj area during assault waves.

(Series _Celtics_____
UNIT _____, OPORDER _-__
__ ____U ___ __ (DTG))

SCHEDULING WORKSHEET

Line #	Organization & caliber	Firing Units	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	REMARKS
1	/ 155mm (T)		AB1003 — AB1002 — AB1000	
2	/ 155mm (T)		AB1003 ● (a) AB1002 ● (a) AB1000 ● (a)	
3	F/W		AB1003 ● ● (b) AB1000 ● ● (b)	(a) 1 rnd illum on deck (b) Mk-82 (c) R&G
4	R/W		AB1002 (c)	
5				
6				

Task: Disrupt enemy attack into sector.

Purpose: IOT preserve MBA and prevent interference with operations at the port and airfield of 29 Palms.

Method: POF: CAS and Arty to HUC
OBS: FiST (P), EFL (A)
Net: Arty COF_____(P), _____(A)
Trigger: Enemy at Tip of Spear (30 kph--TOT +10, 15 kph---TOT +20)

Effects: Enemy CRP destroyed at obstacle (AB1000).

(Series _Patriots_____
UNIT _____, OPORDER _-__
__ ____U ___ __ (DTG))

SCHEDULING WORKSHEET

Line #	Organization & caliber	Firing Units	WOD 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	REMARKS
1	/ 155mm (T)		AB1000	
2	/ 155mm (T)		AB1002 ● (a) AB1004 (b)	
3	F/W		AB1002 ● ● (c)	(a) 1 rnd illum on deck (b) M825 (c) Mk-82
4	R/W		AB1000 (d)	(d) R&G
5				
6				

WOD

Task: Limit enemy ability to interfere with HUC's extract.

Purpose: IOT allow HUC to extract via assault support. WOD at +5.

Method: POF: CAS and Arty to HUC.
OBS: FiST (P), FAC(A) (A)
Net: Arty COF____(P), ____(A)
Trigger: Enemy crosses intersection at 160N gridline. (30kph--TOT +10, 15kph--TOT +20).

Effects: Enemy CRP suppressed at obstacle, enemy Advance Guard prevented from interfering with extract and ADA suppressed.

ASCEX II HELICOPTERBORNE OPERATION PRE-PLANNED 9-LINES

1. DODGE	1. 7111 2X2 (ASP)
2. 005L	2. 287
3. 6.9	3. 3650
4. 2650	4. 2650
5. MECH	5. ADA
6. NU 660114 (AB1000)	6. NU 669122 (AB1001)
7. WP	7. ILLUM ON DECK
8. S 1300	8. S2000
9. E NASH	9. REMAIN IN BP
FAC 005-045	HF FP 701104 (BM 63)
SA 2K W/I 2NM	
	1. 6913 2X2 (BOA)
1. NASH	2. 248
2. 240R	3. 3300
3. 7.3	4. 2650
4. 2650	5. MECH
5. MECH	6. NU 657127 (AB1002)
6. NU 657127 (AB1002)	7. WP
7. WP	8. S2200
8. S2200	9. RT TO BP
9. W TO LOTUS THEN S DODGE	TOW FP 6913 ROCKETS/GUNS
FAC 205-240	
SA 2K W/I 2NM	
1. LOTUS	
2. 055	
3. 5.0	
4. 2640	
5. MECH	
6. NU 649137 (AB1003)	
7. WP	
8. S2200	
9. E NASH	
FAC 020-055	
SA 2K W/I 2NM	

ENCLOSURE (5)